

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 1, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/703,522, filed November 1, 2000, now ~~allowed~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,641,835, which claims the priority of French Application No. FR 9913657, filed November 2, 1999, which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.